

Hobart, Jamie

From: bielab . <bielab@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 03, 2016 10:01 AM
To: pstestimony
Subject: bills SB 234 and SB 235 testimony for The CT State Police Firearms Training Facility

To Whom It May Concern:

For the record, my name is Brian Bielawiec and I live at 188 Rye Street in Broad Brook (East Windsor) and am the property owner. I am writing in support of Senator Tim Larson's and Senator Tony Guglielmo's bills SB 234 and SB 235. These bills are important to ensure a thoughtful siting selection process, one that is fair and transparent to all Connecticut residents. I strongly believe the new State Police firearms training facility should be constructed on land that is previously owned or leased by the State of Connecticut.

Both as a taxpayer and a resident of East Windsor, I have grave concerns regarding how the site selection process has unfolded thus far. The State is willfully dismissing legitimate concerns from residents and ignoring other options that are currently available. Only Sen. Larson and Sen. Guglielmo have listened to constituents, stood up for us and responded to our concerns.

Specific to the site in East Windsor, I would like to reiterate the concerns below. These reasons outline why the East Windsor site is wholly inappropriate for this project. It would be a waste of taxpayer funds to proceed with an EIE on this site. I implore State leadership to pass S.B. 234 and S.B. 235, which would ensure the State uses its own land for this project and remove East Windsor from consideration.

- **UNMET CRITERION** – Based on the State of Connecticut's own Construction Services Criterion, the facility **SHOULD NOT BE LOCATED** in East Windsor. Multiple criterion listed to eliminate various potential sites (of the 1,000 parcels initially identified) are present on the East Windsor site. Surely, land owned by the State would be more suitable. East Windsor has 10 negatives (across Windsorville Road from a recreational facility (park); across Windsorville Road from a church; across Windsorville Road from a cemetery; no close proximity to the highway; not centrally located; aquifer protection area on site; located in Scantic River Regional Drainage Basin; wetlands and FEMA flood plain on site; rare species along Ketch Brook; prime farmland soils and agricultural land currently in use on site).
- **NOISE** – Our elementary school, nearby daycare centers, as well as parents with young children and the elderly in the area would be negatively affected by this level of activity and gun shots throughout the day. East Windsor is a quiet town and the noise would effectively ruin the quality of life for many in town. To make matters worse, during a hearing in early February, it was revealed that the State's plans **DO NOT** include any sound buffers whatsoever. This is complete unacceptable. So much for the State Police wanting to be a "good neighbor"!
- **WATER** – If sited in East Windsor, the well at the Connecticut State Police firearms training facility could have some significant issues. A major concern is EDB or ethylene dibromide, also known as 1, 2-dibromoethane. (EDB is a soil fumigant used by the tobacco industry for many years; it was banned as a fumigant in 1983.) The EDB that had been used locally at Connecticut tobacco farms did not dissipate completely. Rather, it leached into the groundwater and contaminated many private drinking water wells in East Windsor – including homes in close proximity to the Connecticut State Police firearms training facility. In light of this, the well would need to be tested for EDB. If tested positive, the State would need to install and maintain

a water filtration and monitoring system to make the water potable. This is yet another cost for the State, in an environment where we are facing a financial crisis.

- **NEGATIVE ECONOMIC IMPACTS** – Even with just the prospect of this paramilitary firearms training complex, homes in the surrounding area in East Windsor are already losing value and home sales are stagnating. Is the State prepared to compensate each homeowner for the drastic losses of property value? Many homeowners will be underwater in their mortgages due to losses in property value. This will create more need for State services – at a time when the State is slashing services left and right! And of course, there will be massive losses to local tax revenue as well.

It is obvious that the East Windsor site should NOT be considered for the new firearms training facility. State leadership MUST pass S.B. 234 and S.B. 235 to ensure that the State utilizes its own property for this project. Perhaps the State can focus on the priority funding areas (PFAs), which were previously established for precisely this type of endeavor. To be clear, East Windsor will use every avenue possible to fight the siting of this facility in our town. As I previously stated in written testimony, I believe having the new Connecticut State Police firearms training facility built on State-owned land will save the taxpayer funds (since private land won't need to be purchased). Additionally, it will help preserve and protect local communities that do not want this facility in their town for a myriad of rational, compelling, legitimate reasons.

Thank you,

Brian Bielawiec